

End-of-Life Decision-Making Survey

Leader's Guide

This survey focuses primarily on the ethical and legal aspects of end-of-life decision-making, with a few items about clinical care.

Participants sometimes say, “You need to be a lawyer to know all this.” Although some of the items and issues may seem difficult, all the issues referred to in this survey are quite commonplace in skilled nursing facilities. These are “the basics” which need to be well understood by nursing facility staff. Staff members from multiple disciplines and every shift can influence the quality of resident/surrogate decision-making.

The survey is best used to sandwich didactic presentations: Participants can complete the survey, listen to and interact with a presenter, then go over the answers. It helps for participants to have copies of the question and answers during the final discussion. They may wish to take the answers home as well.